REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-16 are pending in this application, with claims 6 and 7 currently withdrawn from consideration. This response is supplemental to the response filed on May 23, 2005. No amendment is made in the present response. Applicant submits that this response is fully responsive to the Office action dated February 24, 2005.

Claims 1 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Takeda (JP2000-108289).

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Based on the Examiner's comments in the Advisory action dated June 9, 2005, Applicant believes that the Examiner may be misinterpreting the teachings of Takeda JP '289. Applicant has therefore obtained and here attached a partial translation of Example 1 of Takeda (JP2000-108289). Applicant believes that this translation should clarify the teachings of the reference and the differences from the present invention.

In particular, the adhesive layer in Takeda JP '289 does not include a pigment, while in the present invention, the adhesive composition does comprise a pigment.

When an aqueous type solution is used instead of an organic solvent for the urethane resin for forming an artificial leather, and only the skin layer of the artificial leather comprises a pigment, the concealing ability may be lower to some extent than in those which are prepared by using an organic solvent. Therefore, in the present invention, it is preferable to include a pigment in the

adhesive layer in order to achieve excellent appearance. That is, when the adhesive layer also includes a suitable pigment, a skin layer formed on the adhesive layer is not affected by the color of an under layer(s) and the like, which are provided under the adhesive layer. Undesired influences of such an under layer can be preferably reduced due to the presence of the pigment in the adhesive layer.

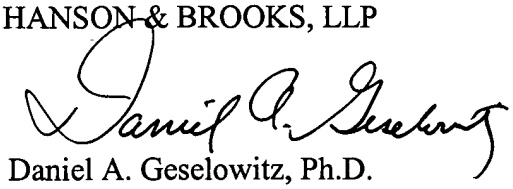
Applicant therefore submits that claims 1 and 8-16 are not obvious over Takeda JP '286.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,573

DAG/pt
Atty. Docket No. **010860**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930

23850
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attachment: Partial translation (Example 1) of Takeda (JP2000-108289)

H:\HOME\PTate\FINALS\010860 RCE RESPONSE

Translation of Example 1 of reference
Takeda JP2000-108289

Example 1

A liquid mixture for forming a skin layer (synthetic resin film), wherein the mixture is obtained by mixing water-borne polyurethane resin (IMPRANIL DLV: produced by Bayer Co.) / an water-borne polyurethane resin (IMPRANIL DLF: product by Bayer Co.) / water-dispersible black pigment (DEXCEL HR: produced by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc.) / leveling agent (HYDRAN WL ASISTAR W1: produced by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc.) / antifoaming agents ((HYDRAN WL ASISTAR D1: produced by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc..) / an urethane-type thickener (HYDRAN WL ASISTAR T1: produced by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc..) in a ratio of 70/30/15/0.2/0.3/2 (parts), was coated on a release paper (DN-TP-APW DE-7, produced by Dainihon Printing and Ajinomoto Co.) at a thickness of 100 μm (wet). Immediately after coating, the coated release paper is preliminary dried at 70℃ for 1 minute in a Warner-Mathis dryer, and then, further dried at 120℃ for 2 minutes to obtain a polyurethane resin film (hereinafter, it is referred to as a skin layer).

Then, on the skin layer, an adhesive liquid which is obtained by mixing a water-borne polyurethane resin (HYDRAN WLA 301: softening point thereof is 40℃ or less, and melt viscosity at 50℃ is 60,000 Pa·s, produced by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc.) / water dispersible polyisocyanate (HYDRAN WL ASISTAR C1, solid content 100 wt% and NCO content is 16-18 wt%, produced by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc.) / an urethane-type thickener (HYDRAN WL ASISTAR T1, produced by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc..) in a ratio of 100/10/2 (parts) was coated onto said skin layer at a thickness of 120 μm (wet). After coating, the coated skin layer is dried at 70℃ for 1 minute in the Warner-Mathis dryer, and immediate after the drying, the dried coated skin

layer is laminated with a substrate 1 (dry laminate). Subsequently, curing was conducting for the laminated coated skin layer and substrate 1 for 2 minutes at 120℃, and furthermore, aging thereof was conducted for 2 days at 40℃. Then, the release paper was separated from the laminated coated skin layer and substrate to obtain a fibrous laminated member (hereinafter, is referred as a processed fabric). Softening point of the cured film obtained from the adhesive of the present invention was determined and the value of the softening point is 170℃.